

BLUE GRASS BLADE.

THOMAS PAIN.

An Address Delivered at the Congress of the National Liberal Party, Cincinnati, Jan. 26, 1902.

BY T. J. WYSCHARKE.

While the brilliant sun, of progress, is hovering near the eastern horizon, while the splendid achievements, of the past, are totally eclipsed by the dazzling light of the present, and the world's entire horizon, bodes but a wildering prospect—it is not highly appropriate, that, we should calmly sit and kingly and tenuously, place a wreath of sweetest flowers upon the brow, of one, of the noblest defenders of man.

While I am not disposed, to indulge in fulsome commendations of the grand, the glorious, intellects, of the ages, that are forever gone, I have nothing, for the slight tribute, I have to offer, in behalf of a man, whose unequalled devotion to truth, will live, as long as the sun of human liberty continues to shine.

The towering, imperious, landmarks, upon every highway, of human advancement, are few.

In all the nations, of the world, each generation can boast, of not more, than a dozen.

Nearly all, of the prominent, historical characters, are, and have been, murderers, thieves, and moral lepers.

The good, of many, of the greatest men, that have ever been, has been, centralized, in the injury, they did. Napoleon—the greatest military figure, in all his torious, more, than any other man, to plant in the human heart—"Those shall die."

While I entertain, no such exalted contempt, for the man, who assisted, with the sword, to win, the great battles, of life—the armies and navies, of the world, are the darkest spots, upon the sacred page, of civilization, and are, and always will be, a menace, to human liberty.

When we become sufficiently civilized, to teach our children, that war is a means, of self-preservation, for every nation—every bayonet—every man of war—every military college, in all the world, is an insidious, and brutalizing, influence, for, to the vast majority, of that excited, ideal civilization, which we are, finally dreaming to night.

After traveling, many days, across a sandy desert—our tongues, parching with thirst, and our brows burning and throbbing, from the terrible effects, of the noonday sun—our rays, capturing the sand—our streams, and capturing the sea—our skies—the cool and sparkling waters—the sweet songs of birds, the delicious perfumes, of flowers, and the luscious fruits and beauty, of the oasis.

After traveling, many days, across years, of ignorance and superstition—of fear, and ages, of fire and sword—horrible punishment, and terrible persecutions—after all the bloody wars, in the cause of freedom—after the hottest battles, to drive, from the human heart, the last vestige, of liberty, and duty, to command, with the gods of delight, to commune, with the angels, of original mentality and life-giving unselfishness, as Thomas Paine.

Why? what did Thomas Paine do, merit such a eulogy?

From the time, when Thomas Paine landed, in the shores of America, until the greatest, and most glorious, conflict, over, every gallant battlefield—over, every foot of land, in every American colony, he fought, with tongue, pen, and sword, and unceasing, an intestinal and a moral warfare, unequalled, in all the world's history.

When human liberty was an outcast—when every man, who dared, to stand, as an existing, tyrant, was treated, as a criminal—when every colonist was labeled, an English chattel—when every slave, that was held, with the most intense fear—when the strain was so great, that the brain, of nearly every man, was available, for want of humanity, and compassion—when the world's patriots, of Revolutionary times, were scarcely able to dream, of independence, and a nation, to be born, gallantly, under the oppressive yoke, of tyrannical kings, who claimed, to be guided, from on high—they it was, from, the principles, to which he was born, that kindled, and fanned the fires, of the Revolution, and planted, in the heart, of every intelligent man, and educated, man, the desire, to free. He saw clearly and distinctly, where the gods were blind, and could hear the ominous sound, of millions, of voices, in the air, that pleaded, for justice, and for tones, for mercy, for liberty—for the burning words, that flashed, from his pen, of fire—yea, had it not been for him, the Declaration of Independence, never would have been written, and the world would have been deprived, of the inexpressible delight, of the millions, of millions, of fourths of July orations—the safety valves, of bubbling patriotism.

What did Thomas Paine do?

With every colonist, who was embaying, to purity, England, Thomas Paine was hurling defiance, at kings and potentates, and shocking the minds, of nearly all Americans, with his stern, and uncompromising, in favor of liberty and independence. His brilliant pen productions thrilled every patriot with awe and created such a political

commotion, that there was a universal demand, for something more, from this fearless writer, resulting in that epoch-making, and most brilliant, publication, in Common Sense.

What did Common Sense do?

Millions, of books, have been written, but few, if any, others, even compared, to the grand, and inspiring truths contained, in them, as Common Sense.

The demand, was so great, that within a month, after its publication, nearly a million copies were sold, to the fluctuating, and futtering colonists, who were beggaring, England, to fight, for their freedom, and their birthright subjects, the electrical transformation produced, by Common Sense, is, without a parallel, the most momentous, and most important, achievement, of the world's history.

What effect, will it have, upon future historians, in the study of the origin, and development, of the future, to wreath the brow, of Thomas Paine, with the roses, and sweetest flowers, that have blossomed, in the rose-tinted, and rosy, atmosphere, of the mortal achievements, of the world's history?

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What did Thomas Paine do?

He fought for France, with tongue and pen, and incurred, the displeasure, of his king, and his nobles, when he knew that he would, because he fought, for principles, rather than for men—he was so uncompromising—so strict, in his action, as to make, even, the most, uncompromising, of the political leaders, of his day, that they doubted his sincerity, when he could not understand why, he should sacrifice, to kill the king and put the crown, on his head.

France. Beautiful France!

To you, you old, dear, glorious France, we will, hand, back, your vast resources to repay.

He could see, hundreds, of years in the future—After having predicted the destruction, of the old world, and after it had, and blot, some, been, full well, that it would yield, abundant harvest, resulting, in the overthrowing, of kings and potentates.

What did Thomas Paine do?

Not only did he fight, at much political liberty, as Thomas Paine, he realized, that physical slavery, never could be abolished, until the mind was free, consequently, he gave, to himself, a name, that would, bequeath, more honor, to him, than any name, he could, have, given, to himself, in his lifetime.

Franklin, the greatest, grandest, and best, of all the colonists, worshipped, at the shrine, of Common Sense, and its banner, and its battle-cry, "Liberty or Death," he had, within a few months, instilled, into the minds of millions, of people, an uncontrollable desire, for independence.

What did Thomas Paine do?

He founded, a newspaper, called, "Common Sense," and read, at the base, of the army, he led, Washington directed his captain, to read it, to the discouraged soldiers.

Its effect, was magical, and instantly cheered, seemed to blossom, into victory.

Those are some of the glories, of Common Sense.

Thomas Paine was a common soldier, before, and after, all derivations, of any army, life, during that bloody struggle, for human liberty.

What did Thomas Paine do?

He founded, a newspaper, called, "The Revolution," when the defeat, of the colonists, was, almost, at hand—When Washington was losing, hope, and American, life, during all the privations, of army life, during that bloody struggle, for human liberty.

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